

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 37954 271249Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8258
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, FR, EEC
SUBJECT: FRENCH ACTION ON PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER
IMPORTS

REF: A) PARIS 34532; B) EC BRUSSELS 9734

1. AS REPORTED REF A), GOF IS ENFORCING ADMINISTRATIVE VISA SYSTEM ON PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER IMPORTS UNDER WHICH EACH IMPORTER HAS "QUOTA" OSTENSIBLY BASED ON TRADITIONAL MARKET SHARE. FRENCH MANUFACTURERS WITH CONTROLLED U.S. SOURCES ARE APPARENTLY NOT AFFECTED BY QUOTAS. WHEN IMPORTER HAS FULLY UTILIZED HIS QUOTA, AS IN BEKER/EPM CASE, VISAS ARE SIMPLY NOT ISSUED.

2. IN CONTINUING EFFORT TO GET ACTION ON LATTER CASE, WHICH INVOLVES 3,370 TONS OF DAP HELD IN CUSTOMS BOND IN BORDEAUX SINCE AUGUST, WE REQUESTED STATUS REPORT FROM POULIN OF MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (MOIR).
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HE FREELY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MOIR IS ACTING IMPROPERLY IN WITHHOLDING SUPPOSEDLY AUTOMATIC ADMINISTRATIVE VISA OVER SUCH A LONG PERIOD AND "WOULD HAVE TO DO SOMETHING" IN JANUARY. HE ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WOULD BE INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING AFTER NEW YEAR AT WHICH DECISION WOULD BE MADE WHETHER TO ESTABLISH

FORMAL QUOTAS UNDER ARTICLE L9. IN MEANTIME, HE SAID, BEKER COULD PROBABLY FIND ANOTHER IMPORTER WITH UNUTILIZED "QUOTA" UNDER VISA SYSTEM, BUT BEKER EUROPEAN SALES MANAGER REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN THIS SUGGESTION ON BOTH PRACTICAL AND PRINCIPAL GROUNDS.

3. EPM HAS WRITTEN MOIR PROTESTING BOTH INTRODUCTION OF QUOTAS AND BASIS ON WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED BUT HAS HAD NO REPLY AND EXPECTS NONE.

4. IF GOF FAILS TO REGULARIZE THIS SITUATION BY MID-JANUARY WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL, AT LEAST FOR THE RECORD, TO REGISTER FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST FRENCH FOR USING ADMINISTRATIVE VISA AS DE FACTO QR.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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